



811- One Call



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May 11, 2017





What is 811 – One Call?

- A mandated - nationwide - process for avoiding excavation related damages to subsurface facilities (mainly utilities)
- The process includes facility owners, excavators, facility locators and One-Call Centers
- Process starts with excavators contacting One-Call Centers and providing them with information on intended excavations, such as:
 - *Scope of work and excavation method*
 - *Area where excavations will be performed*
 - *Date when work will start*
 - *Contact information for excavator representative(s), etc.*





What is One-Call?

- April as National Safe Digging Month recently served as an opportunity to remind everyone that the intent of the **811 - One-Call** process is to prevent:
 - damage to subsurface facilities
 - loss of service, and most importantly
 - injuries or deaths which can result when facilities are struck, or maybe even much later





What is One-Call?

- California Government Code 4216 (GC 4216) governs and defines the One-Call process.
- GC 4216 requires sub-surface facility owners to be members of their local One-Call Center.
- Entities exempted from GC 4216:
 - Caltrans
 - operators of non-pressurized sewers, drain lines, and storm drains
 - owners of facilities located entirely on their property
- The One-Call process in California is **free** to the excavator.





What is One-Call?

- Excavators must notify One-Call at least two business days before excavating
- The One-Call Centers convey the notification to members who may have facilities in the work area
- Members must mark the approximate location of subsurface facilities, or confirm area is clear
- Each excavator must take steps to protect subsurface facilities while excavating and report any damages





Value of One-Call

Nationwide statistics from the Common Ground Alliance indicate that when a locate request is made prior to an underground excavation, 99% of the time no damages will occur.

THIS MEANS LESS THAN 1% OF EXCAVATIONS CAUSE DAMAGES IN INSTANCES WHERE EXCAVATORS SIMPLY PROVIDE PROPER NOTICE TO ONE-CALL BEFORE EXCAVATING!





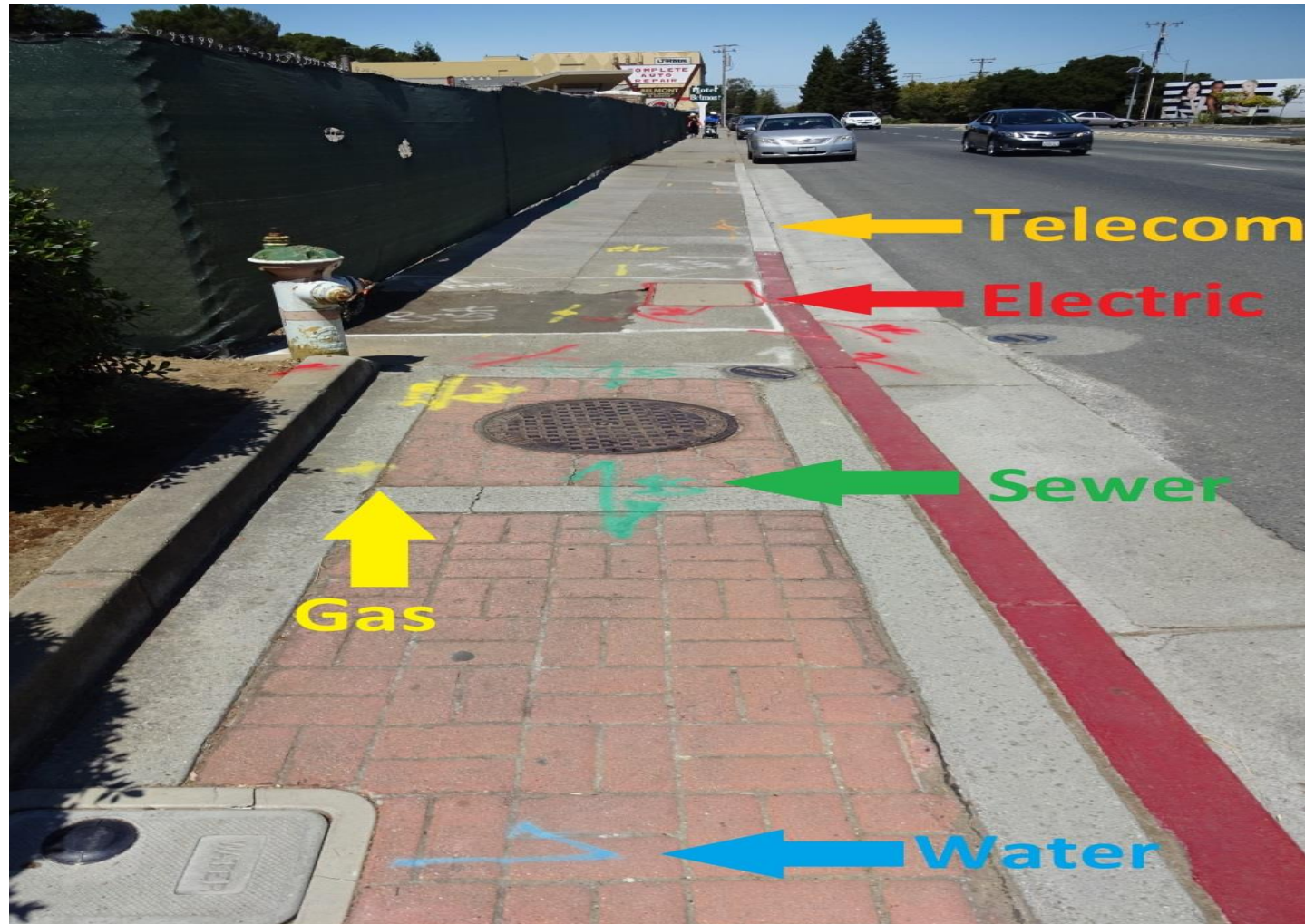
Relationship between One-Call and 811

- There are two One-Call Centers in California:
 - **Underground Service Alert (USA North)** covers northern California (Oregon Border down to Kern and San Luis Obispo counties)
 - **Dig Alert** covers Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Inyo and San Bernardino counties south to the Mexican Border.
- Each One-Call Center can receive notifications through its own 800 phone number; the **811** nationwide number system which automatically routes calls to the correct center; as well as, electronic ticket notification.
- Each One-Call Center is funded by its membership.





Standard Color Markings for USA Locates





Consequences of Improper Practices

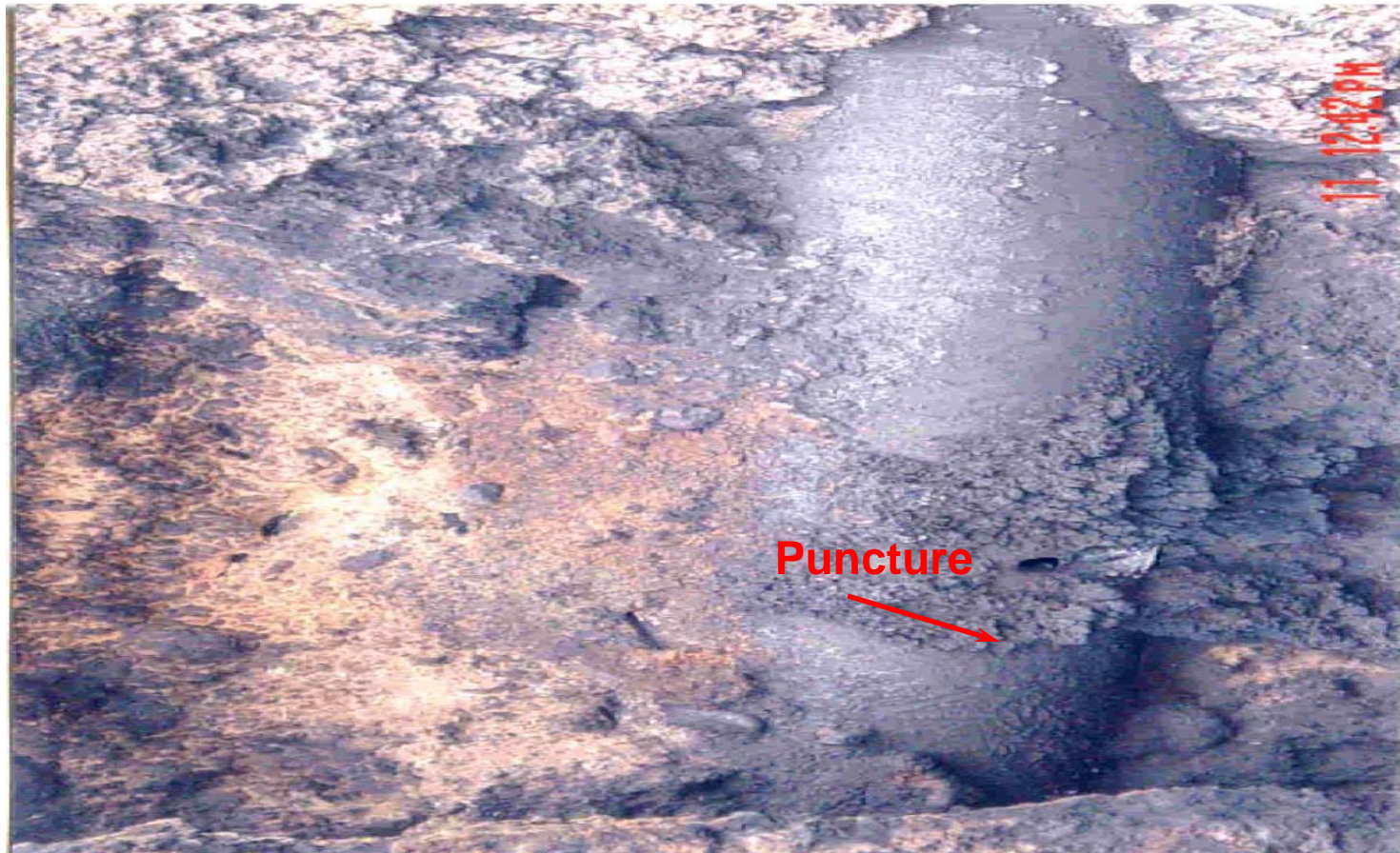


Near Madera – 8-inch Gas Line
August 2003





Consequences of Improper Practices



Walnut Creek - Kinder Morgan LS 16 pipeline
with through-wall puncture – November 2004.

Photo Courtesy of
CalOSHA





Consequences of Improper Practices



Fresno 2015





Consequences of Improper Practices



Photo – Merced Sun-Star

Merced - May 24, 2016

Damage at Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 16th Street





Enforcement of Government Code Section 4216 (California's One-Call Law)

- Entities that have historically had enforcement authority against violators of GC 4216 include:
 - local permitting agencies,
 - district attorneys, or
 - California's Attorney General.
- Unfortunately, these agencies have historically allocated their resources to other investigations or priorities instead of GC 4216
- As a result, enforcement of GC 4216 has essentially been non-existent





Enforcement of Government Code Section 4216 (California's One-Call Law)

- In late 2016, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 661, which:
 - Adds new sections, and modifies existing ones, in GC 4216
 - Creates and empowers a nine member California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board (Board), assisted by the Office of the State Fire Marshall and funded by the Safe Energy Infrastructure and Excavation Fund (SEIEF), to enforce GC 4216 requirements, develop standards, coordinate education and outreach activities, investigate possible violations of GC 4216
 - Allows the Board to make recommendations for graduated enforcement actions to agencies overseeing the offender's activities





Enforcement of Government Code Section 4216 (California's One-Call Law)

- CPUC oversees many of the subsurface utility facilities in California including natural and propane gas, electric, communications, and investor owned water and sewer
- Because gas pipelines are frequently struck and present high risk of injuries/damages, CPUC staff has long been active on various state and industry committees working to find ways to improve excavation practices and laws
- Recent changes to GC 4216 will not alter the CPUC's ability to continue investigating reportable incidents submitted by its jurisdictional utilities, nor its ability to take enforcement actions against these entities





In Summary

- **811 – One Call** is an industry-wide process which works to prevent:
 - damage to subsurface facilities
 - loss of service, and most importantly
 - injuries or deaths which can result when facilities are struck or damaged
- Recent changes to GC 4216, which establish and empower an enforcement body to address GC 4216 violations, should help reduce future damages to subsurface utility facilities

